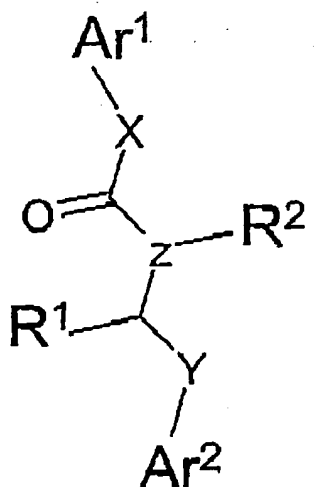


IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

x is selected from a valence bond, -CH₂-, -NH-, -S- or -O-;

Z is selected from =CH- or =N-;

Y is selected from a valence bond or -CH₂-;

R₂ is hydrogen or methyl and R₁ is selected from R₁ is hydrogen or methyl and R₂ is selected from -H, Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, Q-CN, or Q-R₅, wherein R₅ is a functional group that is hydrolized to -CO₂H in physiological conditions, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-;

Ar¹ and Ar² are independently selected from a 3-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, an ensemble of two 3-8 membered monocyclic rings covalently linked by a C-, N-, O- or S-atom, or 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring having 0-4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur, wherein Ar¹ and/or Ar² is

optionally and independently substituted by one to four R3 groups and each R3 is independently selected from -R5-trifluoromethyl, -R6-R4, -R6-F, -R6-Cl, -R6-Br, -R6-J, -R6-NO₂, -R6-CN, -R6-O-R4, -R6-(CH₂)_n-O-R4 (n=1,2,3,4,5,6,7, or 8), -R6-S-R4, -R6-N(R4)₂, -R6-NR4-CO-R4, -R6-NR4-CO-N(R4)₂, -R6-NR4-CO-O-R4, -R6-CO-R4, -R6-CO-O-R4, -R6-CO-N(R4)₂, -R6-O-CO-N(R4)₂, -R6-SO-R4, -R6-SO₂R4, -R6-SO₂N(R4)₂, -R6-NR4-SO₂R4, -R6-NR4-SO₂N(R4)₂, -R6-CO-NR4-CO-R4, or -R6-CO-CH₂-CO-R; wherein each R4 is independently selected from hydrogen, or from an optionally substituted C1-6 aliphatic group, wherein R6 is a valence bond or a bivalent spacer group, in particular C1-6 aliphatic group, and wherein two R3 on adjacent positions on Ar3 are optionally taken together to form a saturated, partially unsaturated, or fully unsaturated 4-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently 3-8 membered monocyclic, or 8-10 membered bicyclic cycloalkyl, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 bicyclic aryl ring, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryl ring having 1-4 heteroatoms.
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.
4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is -CH₂-, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.
5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted

Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R1 is -H, and R2 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted Cl-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 being effective to modulate and/or regulate in vitro and/or in vivo the activity of an AGC kinase containing a PIF pocket homologous site in the small lobe of the kinase domain, in particular being effective to activate or inhibit PDK1 and/or PKB.

9. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1.

10. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein a physiologically effective dose of the compound is mixed with ~~an~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, wherein the composition prevents or treats a disease related to an AGC kinase, comprising PDK1 or PKB having an abnormal high or low activity.

12. (Previously presented) A method for preventing or treating a disease related to an AGC kinase, comprising PDK1 or PKB, having an abnormal high or low activity, wherein a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9 is administered in a physiologically effective dose to an organism having the risk of obtaining the disease or suffering from the disease.

13. (New) A compound according to claim 2, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.

14. (New) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is –CH₂–, R2 is –H, and R1 is selected from –Q–CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, –Q–CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by –O–, –S– or –NH–.

15. (New) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is –CH₂–, R2 is –H, and R1 is selected from –Q–CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, –Q–CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by –O–, –S– or –NH–.

16. (New) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

17. (New) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

18. (New) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.